



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Human Trafficking, Lewd Acts in Long Beach

A 27-year-old man was charged today with trafficking a minor for sex and sexually abusing the teenage girl for nearly a month, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Patrick Lamont Harris (dob 10/22/88) has been charged with seven felony counts in case NA103753: four counts of lewd act upon a child and one count each of human trafficking of a minor for a commercial sex act, pimping a minor under 16 years of age and pandering by encouraging a minor under age 16.

The felony complaint also alleges that Harris was previously convicted of second-degree robbery in 2005 and 2009.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Department SO1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. Prosecutors will ask that bail be set at \$1.73 million.

Prosecutors said Harris allegedly met a 15-year-old girl last month and committed lewd acts on the teen from Feb. 15 to March 9.

Additionally, prosecutors allege that Harris began to pimp the teenager on a website. He also allegedly rented a hotel room and drove the girl to locations so that she could perform sex acts with men, prosecutors said.

On March 9, investigators conducted a sting where they came into contact with the 15-year-old girl and learned about the defendant's involvement with her.

The defendant was subsequently located and arrested in connection with the crimes.

If convicted as charged, Harris faces a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.